

## **GERALDINE FERRARO TO RECEIVE ASBMT PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD AT TANDEM BMT MEETINGS**

Geraldine Ferraro, former member of Congress, Democratic vice presidential nominee in 1984, and former U.N. ambassador, has been chosen to receive the 2003 ASBMT Public Service Award. She will be honored for her accomplishments in bringing national attention to blood cancers, the need for medical research funding and the importance of reducing the time it takes to develop and launch new blood cancer treatments.

Her efforts were key in the enactment of the Hematological Cancer Research Investment and Education Act, signed into law last May. The new legislation coordinates federal support and authorizes \$275 million in new expenditures for blood cancer research and education programs.

Ms. Ferraro has personal experience with multiple myeloma, discovered during a routine physical examination in 1998. She created national news when she opted for a treatment that combines infusions of bone-strengthening bisphosphonates and thalidomide, which was pulled from global markets after being linked to serious birth defects in the late 1950s and 1960s.

Like most of the 14,000 people diagnosed with multiple myeloma each year in the United States, Ms. Ferraro had no history of the disease in her family, and no apparent risk factors. Together with her physician, Kenneth Anderson, M.D., of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, she has testified before Congress about her illness and its treatment to encourage passage of the hematological research and education act.

A recipient for the ASBMT Public Service Award is determined each year

by the society's officers and executive committee. The award will be presented at the Tandem BMT Meetings, Jan. 30-Feb. 3 in Keystone, Colo.

## **SESSION EXPLORES STEM CELLS AND TISSUE REGENERATION**

New developments in tissue regeneration will be explored in a plenary session on Monday afternoon, Feb. 3, during the 2003 Tandem BMT Meetings in Keystone, Colo. Chaired by ASBMT Vice President Armand Keating, MD, the plenary session will begin with a review of the hematopoietic and marrow stromal cell types under investigation.

"Other presentations will focus on regeneration of skeletal muscle and neural tissue in a variety of pre-clinical models," he said. "Clinical data also will be presented on patients treated by intracoronary infusion of hematopoietic stem cells after myocardial infarction." Included in the lineup of topics and speakers are:

- Adult Stem Cell Plasticity: A Physiologic Repair Mechanism—Tim Brazelton, MD
- Bone Marrow Cells to Repair the Injured Spinal Cord—Jeffrey Kocsis, MD
- A Clinical Trial of Intracoronary Stem Cell Transplants to Regenerate the Myocardium After Myocardial Infarction—Peter Wernet, MD

## **WORKSHOP EXAMINES ISSUES OF BIODEFENSE AND BMT**

"Terrorism—Is the Transplant Community Prepared?" is the provocative question and title of a workshop that will be held on the final day of the 2003 Tandem BMT Meetings, Feb. 3, in Keystone, Colo.

A so-called "dirty nuclear bomb"

could cause exposure to penetrating radiation well beyond the immediate radius of the fireball and air blast. "A blast in a densely populated urban area could result in tens of thousands exposed to between 5 and 15 Gy of whole-body penetrating radiation—doses at which the primary acute toxicities are hematopoietic and gastrointestinal," said Dennis Confer, MD, who will chair the workshop on biodefense. For the past 11 years, Dr. Confer has been medical director of the National Marrow Donor Program.

"Aggressive medical support could significantly improve outcomes," he said. "Allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation could be an important supportive measure."

Recent improvements in supportive care and the evolution and growth of the medical infrastructure supporting allogeneic transplant units make it rational to consider national and regional emergency preparedness planning in the event of a nuclear strike, Dr. Confer said.

## **SYMPOSIUM ON ADVANCES IN STEM CELL TRANSPLANTATION WILL BE HELD IN SAN DIEGO**

The 11th International Symposium on Recent Advances in Stem Cell Transplantation will be held May 8-10 in San Diego.

Initiated at the University of California-San Diego in 1992, the annual symposium is held alternately in San Diego and Heidelberg. The speakers are leaders in their respective disciplines and will present up-to-the-minute information about stem cell transplantation. A special session has been allocated for presentation of the best abstracts submitted for the conference. Information is available at [cme.ucsd.edu/stemcell/index.htm](http://cme.ucsd.edu/stemcell/index.htm).